

Message Text

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50

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 FEA-02 OMB-01

DODE-00 FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 NIC-01

IO-14 /175 W

----- 036734

R 211545Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6060

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASUY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

ZEV/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

EC BRUSSELS

OECD PARIS

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0805

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: ELAB, UK, XF: ETRD

SUBJECT: US TRADE UNION LEADER EXPECTED TO SEEK ITF SUPPORT
FOR ARAB SHIPPING BOYCOTT

REF: LONDON 630

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY FEARS THAT US LONGSHOREMEN'S PRESIDENT GLEASON'S REPORTED EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE SHIPPING BOYCOTT OF ARAB GOODS, ONCE PUBLICIZED IN ARAB WORLD, WOULD LIKELY CONVINCE ARAB UNION LEADERS THAT AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT IS NOT SIMPLY PRO-ISRAEL BUT ANTI-ARAB AS WELL AND WOULD GENERALLY UNDERCUT POSITION OF FRIENDLY ARAB LABOR LEADERS WHO FAVOR DIALOGUE WITH US LABOR. US INITIATIVE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE SEIZED UPON BY COMMUNIST AND ANTI-US ARAB ELEMENTS PREACHING ARAB LABOR ISOLATION FROM AMERICAN LABOR AND TOTAL DISAFFILIATION FROM ICFTU AND ITS'S. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT BRING THESE NEGATIVE CONSIDERATIONS TO ATTENTION OF AFL/CIO AND GLEASON. END SUMMARY.

2. REPORTED PLAN OF LONGSHOREMEN'S PRESIDENT GLEASON TO ORGANIZE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING BOYCOTT OF ARAB GOODS (REFTEL), SECOND INITIATIVE OF ITS KIND ASSOCIATED WITH GLEASON WITHIN MONTH (BEIRUT 14:19 NOTAL AND STATE 248524 NOTAL), PROMPTS EMBASSY TO POINT OUT SOME LIKELY ADVERSE EFFECT OF ARAB LABOR EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE BLNKET RETALIATORY TRADE MEASURES AGAINST ARABS. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHAT TRANSPIRED AT ITF MEETING AT LONDON BUT RECOMMENDS* DEPARTMENT CONSIDER DISCUSSING WITH AFL/CIO AND GLEASON, AFTER HIS RETURN TO US, NEGATIVE AS*ECTS OF BOYCOTT IDEA BEFORE IT REAPPEARS A THIRD TIME.

3. POTENTIAL HARM HINGES ON ARAB LABOR LEADERS' ATTITUDE TOWARDS US LABOR MOVEMENT AND ON EVER PRESENT POSSIBILITY OF ARAB LABOR ACTION AGAINST US. PREVAILING VIEW AT PRESENT IN LEBANON, FOR EXAMPLE, HOLDS THAT US UNIONS ARE PRO-ISRAEL--WHICH LEBANESE REGRET BUT CAN LIVE WITH--BUT ARE NOT ANTI-ARAB. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR LEBANESE TO MAINTAIN THIS VIEW HOWEVER ONCE THEY LEARNED AN INFLUENTIAL US LABOR BODY WAS ACTIVELY PROMOTING ACROSS-THE-BOARD EMBARGO AGAINST ENTIRE ARAB WORLD. POSITION OF FRIENDLY ARAB LABOR LEADERS WHO FAVOR TIES AND DIALOGUE WITH US LABOR--SUCH AS THOSE WHO ATTENDED AFL/CIO CONVENTION LAST AFALL-- WOULD BE UNDERCUT. TO CITE CASE IN POINT, LEBANESE LABOR MOVE-
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MENT WITHSTOOD PRESSURES TO APPLY LABOR BOYCOTT AGAINST US INTERESTS LAST OCTOBER/NOVEMBER INPART BECAUSE ITS MODERATE LEADERSHIP CONTINUED TO VALUE THEIR LONGSTANDING RELATIONS WITH THE US AND THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT (INCLUDING TED GLEASON WHOSE VISIT TO BEIRUT SOME YEARS AGO IS STILL WARMLY REMEMBERED BY LEBANESE). EVEN THEY HOWEVER WOULD TEND TO DRAW CONCLUSION, SHOULD REPORTED ILA INITIATIVE TAKE ON SUBSTANCE, THAT US LABOR WAS ESSENTIALLY HOSTILE TO ARABS AND INTENT ON TAKING PUNITIVE,

VINDICTUUE ACTION AGAINST ALL ARABS, INCLUDING OLD FRIENDS.

4. AS RESULT, COMMUNISTS AND ANTI-US ARAB ELEMENTS, WHO HAVE LONG SOUGHT TO ENGINEER TOTAL BREAK BETWEZN ARAB UNIONS AND WESTERN LABOR, WOULD HAVE SHINY NEW TRUMP CARD TO PLAY IN PRESSING NOT ONLY FOR END OF ARAB CONTACTS WITH AFL/CIO BUT FOR COMPLETE ARAB DISAFFILIATION FROM ICFTU AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS. AND, SHOULD CALL FOR ARAB LABOR BOYCOTT AGAIN BE RENEWED, MODERATE LABOR LEADERS COULD NO LONGER BE EXPECTED TO PUT UP EFFECTIVE RESISTANCE.
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Message Attributes

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